First Congregational
United Church of Christ

111 S. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 980413 Ypsilanti, MI 48198)
www.ypsiucc.org

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice!

June 25, 2023
10:00 am

"Daring Discipleship"

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Open and Affirming Sunday
66th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, You are welcome here!

WORSHIP ON ZOOM -- Zoom opens at 9:30 am Sunday morning.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7643282234

Meeting ID: 764 328 2234
Passcode: Ypsi1882
To join by phone, dial the number, 1-312-626-6799

- Welcome to Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC's Zoom Worship Service
- Hymns are included in the worship bulletin. A separate hymnal is not needed.
- If you are joining worship for the first-time on Zoom, please add your name and email to the chat so the Zoomie Greeter can introduce you.
- Thank you for choosing to worship with us today!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identifies and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive, or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe, nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

RINGING THE BELL **MARTY KLEINO**

PRELUDE *Start Zoom Recoding to Cloud **JOSHUA CANTANIA**

"Blackbird"

John Lennon/Paul McCartney

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **IVAN HARNER**

- A warm welcome to all, including first-time visitors.
- As stated in our Open and Affirming Covenant (previous page), all persons are welcome in this community of faith.
- Patty Sherwood, Zoom Host will introduce folks participating in worship.
- Please share your announcements so everyone can learn what is happening in our beloved ministry community.
- Please submit written announcements to Margaret Harner, Worship Coordinator, margaretsharner@gmail.com, by midnight on Tuesday.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Today we celebrate Open and Affirming worship spaces everywhere, including our own. For many years, June has been a time to celebrate the diversity of God's LGBTQ+ children. Throughout the United Church of Christ, Pride Month is a time to acknowledge the ongoing struggle for human rights and dignity — especially within Christian spaces — while uplifting a community shaped by love and joy through a wide variety of identities and expressions.

It was in November 13, 1988 when this congregation voted overwhelmingly to become the 1st Open and Affirming UCC faith community in Michigan. It is with love that we continue to live out this commitment to the wholeness and blessing of each person, made exactly in God's image.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMITMENT *Unison microphones muted **IVAN HARNER**

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GATHERING HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Call to Prayer"

61SING

CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsive with microphone muted **IVAN HARNER**

Leader: King Nebuchadnezzar constructed a huge golden statue and used his power and political influence to declare that everyone in the kingdom should worship his statue. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to conform.

People: The world is constantly using power structures, money, oppression, and marginalization to encourage individuals to silence their uniqueness and conform to the status quo. It's okay to reject pressure to conform.

Leader: Once they refused to be like everyone else haters told the king that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego should be punished for being different.

People: Sometimes people will try to pressure or bully us to be just like everyone else. It is okay to love who we are and who God made us to be.

Leader: After Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to change the king threatened them with violence and embarrassment. They still refused to change.

People: Bullies will use their power and influence and encourage everyone to meet their standards. It is okay to stand up to bullies and live your truth without the approval or acceptance of others.

Leader: After Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not conform they were put into a fiery furnace as punishment for not changing. Never be surprised at the lengths people go to reject your individualism.

People: The three survived the flames and through their witness, the power structures that supported their oppression were changed. Standing up for the right thing can bring positive change.

Leader: The LGBTQIA community is currently under attack all over the world. Politicians, individuals, and even some churches are using their power and influence to harm these and other underrepresented groups.

People: Let us live and walk in our truth. Let us encourage others to do the same. Let us not be ashamed or afraid to be who God created us to be. Let us resist all forms of hate. God is love and God loves all. Amen.

HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"We Have This Ministry"
47 ES

LISTENING FOR GOD

FIRST READING **Daniel 3:16-28** **IVAN HARNER**

SECOND READING **Isaiah 43:18-21** **MARGARET HARNER**

MORNING MESSAGE **"Daring Discipleship"** **MARGARET HARNER**

66th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ

HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"I'll Shout the Name of Christ Who Lives"
234 NCH

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pause Zoom recording **IVAN HARNER**

Turn on microphones

You are invited to share your joys and petitions for prayer.
Please unmute your microphone to share a joy or make a prayer of petition.
At the end of each joy or petition, please say **"God in your mercy"**
We will respond (with microphones muted) **"Hear our prayers"**

PASTORAL PRAYER *Restart Zoom recording

DISCIPLES' PRAYER *Unison with Microphone muted

In a world of shadows, you are the light.
In a world of despair, you are the glimmer of something better.
In a world filled with pain, you are the cure.
You are the morning sun that chases away the longest night.
You are the stars in the sky that appear after the clouds clear out.
You are the rainbow that forms after the storm.
You are the joy in the sound of every newborn's cry.
You are the wind that blows the seeds to grow new crops.
You are the one we turn to when we can no longer find joy in this world.
You are the one who says, "Follow me, and I will lead you to something better."
You, O God, Creator of all, are hope.
You are our hope.
Amen.

Use this moment of silence to offer your own prayers.

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has blessed us beyond measure and our own generosity is an opportunity to use a portion of our blessings to minister to others. The Holy is calling us to gather our gifts and offer them to God in worship. Let us gather our gifts and worship through our generosity.

Our electronic giving platform is Tithe.ly: Link to Tithe.ly

Checks can be mailed to:
First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413,
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY **"O Grant Us Light"** **JOSHUA CANTANIA**
Lawrence Tuttiett

DOXOLOGY *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Take My Gifts" v 2, 562 NCH

Take the fruits that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter, flavor of the Jesus life,
*Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief***.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Unison with Microphones muted **IVAN HARNER**

We offer our gifts to the God of all.
We joyfully give our treasure to bring hope, justice, love and healing
to those who are hurting.
May these gifts be blessed and multiplied.
May they be used to provide ministry for those pushed to the margins in society.
Let the generosity represented here be magnified and amplified
And stretched beyond our human thought and imagination.
Amen

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

CLOSING HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Exultation Hymn"
Steve Cagle/Rev. Susan Lyon

BENEDICTION *Unison with microphones muted **MARGARET HARNER**

Thank you, Holy One, for this worship gathering.
Please dismiss us in your light and in your love.
Let us leave this worship experience with a renewed sense of hope and healing.
Let us leave this space walking and serving in authenticity,
understanding that our greatest witness is our truth.
Let us prayerfully work to find the strength to resist the pressure to change whom God created us to be.
Thank you God, for loving who we are, as we are. Amen

POSTLUDE **"I've God Peace Like a River** **JOSHUA CATANIA**
African-American Spiritual

PASSING THE PEACE **FRIENDS GATHERED**

***Save Zoom Recording to Cloud (click "yes")

Share a greeting with others as we transition to our casual **Friendship Time.**

Zoom Only Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Ivan & Margaret Harner, Leading Worship
Tiffanie Waldron, Music Director
Joshua Cantania, Accompanist

YPSILANTI FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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111 S. Wallace Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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734-482-6980
ypsiucc.org

ATTRIBUTIONS FOR TODAY'S BULLETIN

- **Call to Worship/Offering Invitation/Prayer of Dedication/Benediction:** Rev. Derek Terry, black, queer, UCC pastor (adapted)
- **Disciples Prayer:** Sally Tuffin, found in *Gatherings* published by the United Church of Canada, Pentecost 1 2023 p.44

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For pastoral care needs and/or emergencies, please call or text Donna Eyster, 734-780-5857.

Worship Next Week: Bringing the Message: Rev. Jeanette Sherril; Zoom Host/Greeter, Anne Marie Nicoll-Turner; Liturgist, Donna Eyster

Church Council will meet on Wednesday, June 28th, 7:00 PM, on church zoom. **All are welcome and, encouraged to attend!**

Next Steps in Moving Our Faith Community Forward to What God Seeks of Us - All of Us!

We need you to join a **Zoom Congregational Meeting on Sunday Morning July 9 at 9:15a.m.** We will gather for the purpose of creating a list of possible paths for our future ministry. We will not discuss or evaluate each of these possibilities. No idea is too off the wall to add to the list! The list will then be sent to each of you via email to indicate if you think each option is of low, medium, or high. This is the next step in the discernment work we did with Pastor Liz, which resulted in our **Mission-Vision-Values** statements. **Rev. Jeanette Sherrill** will lead this endeavor. Jeanette worked with other congregations transition to new paths while she was on staff in the New York UCC Conference and continued working with congregations after completing her ministry with NYC.

God really does provide! Please come and offer your thoughts. Thank you, Jeanette!

"Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19

The 34th General Synod of the United Church of Christ meets in Indianapolis June 30-July 4.
General Synod is a gathering of delegates from every UCC conference and from affiliated groups around the globe. The delegates vote on all matters pertaining to the national church including resolutions directing public action about social justice issues, a bylaw amendment, election of new UCC General Minister and President, Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, and budget. Attendees experience wonderful creative worship services, workshops and speakers. Go online to learn more about the work happening in Indianapolis this week. https://generalsynod.org

THEME: *Making All Things New,* Isaiah 48:18-19

OUR MINISTRIES

HOLY GROUNDS AND TEA FOR THE SOUL

During the Omicron (COVID) surge members of Ypsi UCC provided local coffee, tea, coffee cups, and single packaged snacks for the night shift at Trinity Health St. Joe Mercy Hospital where Rev. Dan Kidder-McQuown is the night chaplain. While the COVID crisis has partially resolved, the stress level of the night staff has not. Contributing factors include the long-term emerging effects of COVID, a lack of staff, a nation-wide nurse shortage, and staff burnout. The night shift greatly appreciates this ministry of hospitality and caring.

Please consider donating coffee that is roasted by local Michigan companies. Tea and single packaged candy or snacks are also welcome. Please contact Marty Kleino at Mgkleino@gmail.com or 734-262-1419 to have your donation delivered to St. Joes. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact Dan Kidder-McQuown at mcq188@gmail.com or 517-240-8413.

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY – WASHTENAW INTERFAITH COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (WICIR)

Since 2008, **WICIR** has been working with, and in support of, immigrants in Washtenaw County facing challenges of many kinds. At our inception the primary need that brought us together was to support people facing enforcement action by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement); most often detention, deportation, and removal. To date, WICIR has responded to 650 calls. Always in partnership with folks most affected, many actions and services have evolved as identified by our immigrant siblings, while always keeping focused on our original mission:

To provide culturally sensitive and supportive urgent response to those in Washtenaw County in immigration-related crises; impact local governmental policies to empower and protect immigrant community members; and work toward humane national immigration reform.

Our outreach has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many in immigrant communities have experienced significant challenges as they struggle to pay rent, provide food for their families and other basic survival needs. To respond, WICIR, in partnership with Mexiquenses in Michigan (from St. Francis of Assisi Parish), has raised and distributed $200,000 relief funds to immigrants and their families. We have a waiting list of those still in need and will continue this effort as funds are available.

For information about what's happening with immigrant rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Melanie Harner at melharner@gmail.com or through the WICIR website: https://wicir.org/. You can also find a link on the church website.

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION

First Congregational is a founding institution of the local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. WeROC members are, at our core, focused on intentionally re-weaving the frayed fabric of community at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated. Especially in this time when so many are being hit by the health and economic crises, WeROC's focus on

raising voices of those most affected is more important than ever (See COVID-19 Resources at www.werocmi.org) WeROC's Mission Statement is:

WeROC brings together faith, labor, community organizations, and individuals to build the healthy collective power needed to break down the systems that sustain injustice, racism, and economic inequality.

WeROC is affiliated with the Detroit Metro organization MOSES and the Gamliel National Network. Contact Tad Wysor at tadwysor@gmail.com or 734-883-3225.

This past election year showed us good things can happen when we're working together in the same direction. WeROC is moving rapidly **forward** to keep momentum going and find ways to continue to be more effective together in making our communities healthier and more vibrant places; improving the lives of *everyone* in big ways-- especially those who are most vulnerable and whose voice have seldom been heard.

1/2

Call to Prayer

♩=100
D
G/D
A/D
G/D
♩=100
5
D
D/F♯
G
D
1. Float - ing and flam - ing and fill - ing new life.
2. Search - ing and sav - ing and sooth - ing in - deed.
3. Call - ing and car - ing and chang - ing each heart.
9
F♯m
Bm
E
A
Hov - 'ring and heal - ing and help - ing with sighs.
Teach - ing and turn - ing and tak - ing the lead;
Lov - ing and lift - ing us to a new start;

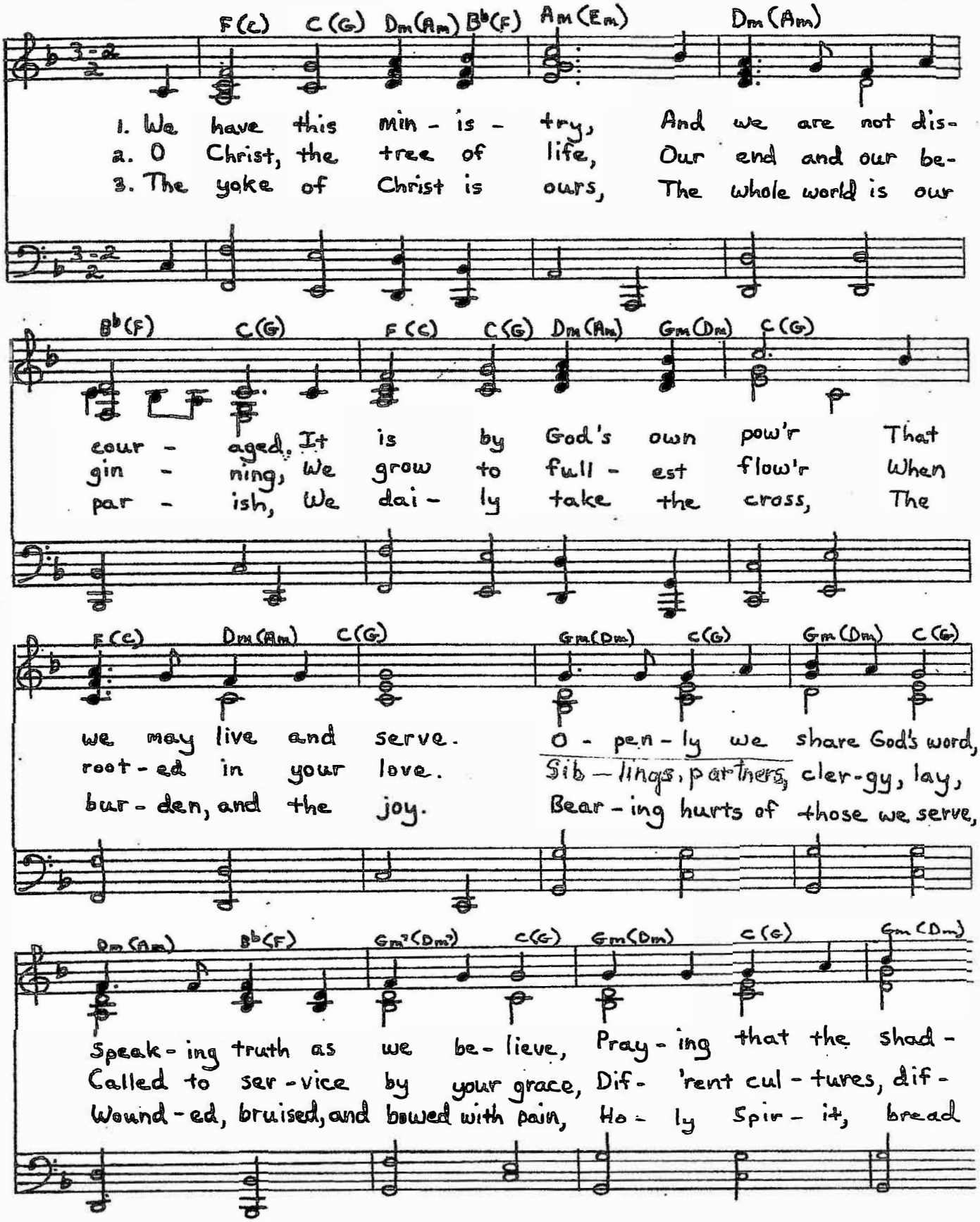
Words and Music: Phil Mark, Copyright ©1997, 2005. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
(Words revised by the Praise Song Advisory Team, 2009.)
Piano Arrangement: David Maxwell, Copyright ©2009. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

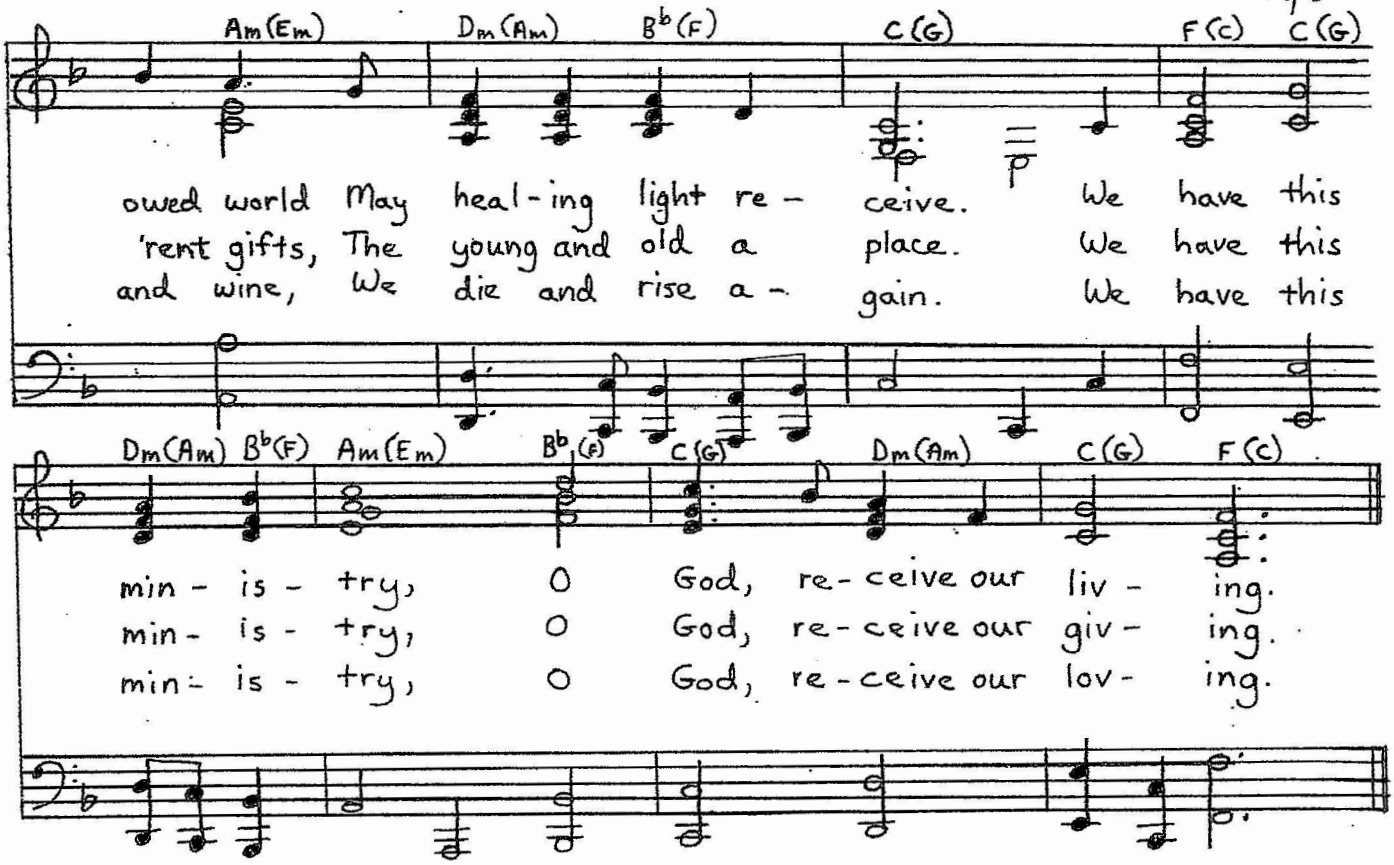
13
Em A Bm/A A7 D/F♯ Em
Spir - it at work since the dawn - ing of time;
Lov - ing - ly par - en - ting birth - ing new ways;
Je - sus our Sav - ior, our teach - er, our Lord;
17
A Bm C♯dim Bm G Em/G A D
meet us right here, touch us right now.
meet us right here, touch us right now.
meet us right here, touch us right now.
21
A Bm C♯dim Bm G Em A D
Meet us right here, touch us right now.
Meet us right here, touch us right now.
Meet us right here, touch us right now.

47 We Have This Ministry

Guitar capo: 5 play: C

Words and music by
Jim Strathdee


F(C) C(G) Dm(Am) B♭(F) Am(Em) Dm(Am)
1. We have this min - is - try, And we are not dis-
2. O Christ, the tree of life, Our end and our be-
3. The yoke of Christ is ours, The whole world is our
B♭(F) C(G) F(C) C(G) Dm(Am) Gm(Dm) C(G)
cour - aged. It is by God's own pow'r That
gin - ning, We grow to full - est flow'r When
par - ish, We dai - ly take the cross, The
F(C) Dm(Am) C(G) Gm(Dm) C(G) Gm(Dm) C(G)
we may live and serve. O - pen - ly we share God's word,
root - ed in your love. Sib - lings, partners, cler - gy, lay,
bur - den, and the joy. Bear - ing hurts of those we serve,
Dm(Am) B♭(F) Gm7(Dm7) C(G) Gm(Dm) C(G) Gm(Dm)
Speak - ing truth as we be - lieve, Pray - ing that the shad -
Called to ser - vice by your grace, Dif - 'rent cul - tures, dif -
Wound - ed, bruised, and bowed with pain, Ho - ly Spir - it, bread


Am(Em) Dm(Am) B♭(F) C(G) F(C) C(G)
owed world May heal-ing light re- ceive. We have this
'rent gifts, The young and old a place. We have this
and wine, We die and rise a- gain. We have this
Dm(Am) B♭(F) Am(Em) B♭(F) C(G) Dm(Am) C(G) F(C)
min- is- try, O God, re-ceive our liv- ing.
min- is- try, O God, re-ceive our giv- ing.
min- is- try, O God, re-ceive our lov- ing.

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I'll Shout the Name of Christ Who Lives 234

Vivincio L. Vinluan, 1980; alt. *Rom. 6:5–11*

1 I'll shout the name of Christ who lives,
who lives, who lives, that all might live;
Christ broke death's power at Cal - va - ry,
and now I know from sin I'm free.
2 Dear Col - leagues sing a - mong all here,
and leap with joy, my Sib - lings dear;
A - lone at home we seek our peace,
there Je - sus comes to bring re - lease.
3 Once more we shout our joy and praise
to One we love, whose throne is grace,
Whose way is Life, whose Word ful - fills
as we in glad - ness do God's will.

This contemporary Filipino hymn incorporates a musical motive from a traditional folk song, "Bahay Kubo." It was published in the 1983 collection of Asian-American hymns, Hymns from the Four Winds, *edited by I-to Loh.*

Tune: BAHAY KUBO L.M.
Wesley Tactay Tabayoyong, 1981
Based on a Philippine folk song

Dedicated to John W. Lardin

Exultation Hymn

For the ONA Exultation, "Gathered in Spirit, Gaining in Strength," Oct. 13-15, 1995, Cleveland, Ohio

The Rev. Susan Lyon — Steven Cagle

1. God's truth is like a fire, a bea - con burn - ing bright, re -
2. God's prom - ise is a rain - bow, which beck - ons through the rain, as -
3. God's jus - tice is a riv - er surg - ing to the sea. It
fin - ing all it touch - es, fe - ro - cious ho - ly light. The kiln of the cre - a - tor trans-
sur - ing us of bles - sing, which lies be - yond the pain. With hearts that brim with hop-ing, we
crash - es through the na - tions, de - mand - ing lib - er - ty. No pre - ju - dice or ha - tred may
form - ing hu - man clay, God's truth will call us for - ward, the fire lights the way.
see our fu - ture shine. God's prom - ise calls us for - ward, the rain - bow is our sign.
stand a - gainst that tide. God's prom - ise calls us for - ward, the riv - er serves as guide.
We're grow - ing in spi - rit. Let all the peo - ple hear it: Our faith has made moun - tains
move. We're gain - ing in strength no mat - ter the length of the jour - ney; we're
1-2
home in God's love.
3
home in God's love.

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